

TASMANIA - Highlights from Household Expenditure Survey 2003-04

By state:

- The lowest average household expenditure was in Tasmania (\$753 a week). Tasmania also had the lowest level of gross household income (\$897 a week).
- Across all broad goods and services expenditure categories, Tasmania had the lowest expenditures on:
 - current housing costs (\$94 a week), spent on items such as rent and interest on home mortgage payments;
 - food and non-alcoholic beverages (\$135 a week);
 - household services and operation (\$45 a week);
 - medical care and health expenses (\$36 a week);
 - transport (\$128 a week);
 - recreation (\$94 a week);
 - personal care items (\$13 a week);
 - miscellaneous goods and services (\$61 a week), spent on items such as education and other fees.
- Tasmania had the lowest expenditure on fast food and takeaway (\$18 a week).
- Significant increases in expenditure over the five years from 1998-99 were on mobile telephone charges (up 312%), pay TV (up 291%) and wine (up 70%).

Differences in demographic and geographic characteristics of households help to explain Tasmania's relatively low levels of expenditure. These factors include:

- Tasmania had the lowest proportion of households living in the capital city area (41%).
- Tasmania had the lowest proportion of households with wages and salaries income as the principal source of income (52%) and the highest proportion of households with government pensions and allowances as their principal source of income (36%).
- Tasmania had a relatively high proportion of outright home ownership (38%).

By capital city:

- While households in Tasmania recorded the lowest total weekly expenditure and gross income, Hobart recorded neither the lowest expenditure nor the lowest gross income levels for a capital city (Adelaide was lower than Hobart in terms total expenditure and Brisbane in terms of income).
- Comparing each category of goods and services expenditure, Hobart had the lowest expenditures on housing costs (\$108 a week), on household services and operation (\$52 a week), and on personal care (\$15 a week).
- Within the housing costs, Hobart had the lowest expenditures on rent and on interest on mortgage repayments (both \$31 a week).
- Significant increases in expenditure over the five years from 1998-99 were on mobile telephone charges (up 349%), pay TV (up 224%), internet charges (up 179%) and wine (up 73%).

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Average weekly expenditure (\$)	938	888	820	814	871	753	1,038	1,052	883
Mean gross household income per week (\$)	1,212	1,134	1,036	1,033	1,098	897	1,401	1,399	1,128

Extract from Tables 25 and 26 of Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2003-04 (cat. no. 6530.0).

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